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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ATTY. DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO. (Modified) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE K-1436P Cont. 10/606482 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE **APPLICANT** STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Mehrotra et al. (Use several sheets if necessary) **FILING DATE** GROUP (37 CFR 1.98(b)) 6/26/03 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS EXAMINER FILING DATE** INITIAL PATENT NUMBER DATE **PATENTEE** CLASS IF APPROPRIATE **SUBCLASS** 4 0 1 1 1 0 8 3/1977 Hellman et al. 148 11.5P 4 1 2 7 4 1 6 11/1978 Lumby et al. 106 73.2 4 2 2 7 8 4 2 10/1980 Samanta et al. 409 131 4 2 6 4 5 4 8 4/1981 Ezis 264 65 4 2 8 6 9 0 5 9/1981 Samanta 409 132 4 2 9 6 0 6 5 10/1981 Ishii et al. 264 325 4 3 8 8 0 8 5 6/1983 Sann et al. 51 307 4 4 0 7 1 6 1 8/1983 Ezis et al. 264 332 4 4 0 6 6 6 7 9/1983 Sann et al. 51 295 4 4 0 6 6 6 8 9/1983 Sann et al. 51 295 4 0 9 0 3 10/1983 0 Sann et al. 51 295 FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION **COUNTRY OR TRANSLATION** DOCUMENT NUMBER DATE PATENT OFFICE **CLASS SUBCLASS** YES NO 9 7 1 8 1 7 7 5/1997 PCT X 0 2 9 8 9 3 1/1989 6 Χ Europe 7 9 3 7 5 8 1 10/1997 **PCT** X 0 3 5 4 1 4 3 03/1991 Full Japan **English** 3 1 9 3 6 6 6 08/1991 Japan Full English 3 9 3 8 6 4 4 05/1990 Germany X OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication) Sivasankaran et al., "Wear of Ceramic Tools in Machining Cast Iron", pp. 293-301 Beeghly et al., "Application-Specialized Ceramics: A Silicon Nitride for Machining Gray Cast Iron". pp. 91-99; ASM Conference: Tool Materials, Scottsdale, AZ (February, 1987) Janardhana Reddy et al., "Comparative Studies of Ceramic and Tungsten Carbide Tools for Machining Gray Cast Iron," pp. 161-171; Conference: Advanced Ceramics; India (March, 1990) **EXAMINER** DATE CONSIDERED

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K-1436P Cont Patent

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with first class postage affixed, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on July 30, 2003.

Signature

Rhonda L. Sanders

Type or Print Name of Person Certifying

Date: July 30, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of: Mehrotra et al. Serial No.10/606482 Group Art Unit: Filed: June 26, 2003 For: PROCESS FOR HEAT TREATING Examiner: CERAMICS AND ARTICLES OF MANUFACTURE MADE THEREBY

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS Alexandria, Virginia 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, it is requested that the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record in the above identified application. Copies of the references are submitted herewith. If some of the documents have markings thereon, applicants do not intend to attach any significance to such markings.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of this patent application and hence, must be considered by the Patent Examiner. However, if any fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessary to enter this paper and obtain consideration of the documents identified on the attached listing to Deposit

Account No. 02-2267.

Respectfully submitted.

179 Belle Forrest Cir Suite 102

Nashville, Tennessee 37221

ben 7. Belsheim Attorney for Applicant(s) Registration No. 28,688 Telephone: 615-662-0100

Facsimile: 615-662-0352

Sheet 2 of 9 SERIAL NO. **FORM PTO-1449** U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ATTY. DOCKET NO. 10/606482 PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE K-1436P Cont. (Modified) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE **APPLICANT** STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Mehrotra et al. **FILING DATE GROUP** (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR 1.98(b)) 6/26/03 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** FILING DATE **ISSUE** INITIAL PATENTEE **CLASS SUBCLASS** IF APPROPRIATE DATE PATENT NUMBER 295 4 4 0 9 4 10/1983 Sann et al. 51 51 295 6 6 11/1983 4 4 1 7 0 Sann et al. 51 295 4 4 2 1 5 2 5 12/1983 Sann et al. 3 1 02/1984 Sann et al. 51 295 4 4 3 1 4 51 295 4 4 5 4 7 04/1984 Sann et al. 4 0 3 3 9 7 9 02/1984 Sann et al 51 307 4 4 501 98 3 4 4 4 2 3 8 02/1984 Ezis et al. 51 295 4 4 8 9 4 04/1984 Sann et al. 4 1 295 4 4 4 9 9 8 9 05/1984 Sann et al. 51 4 4 9 7 2 2 8 02/1985 Sann et al. 82 1C 7 0 7 04/1984 Shimamori et al 264 65 4 4 4 0 FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION TRANSLATION **PUBLICATION** COUNTRY OR NO DATE **CLASS SUBCLASS** YES PATENT OFFICE DOCUMENT NUMBER Х 4 0 0 0 7 7 7 08/1990 Germany Х 3 9 3 9 9 8 9 07/1990 Germany OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication) Tennenhouse et al., "Interaction of Silicon Nitride and Metal Surface", J. Am., Ceramic Soc. 68 [1] C30-C31 (1985) Agranov et al., "Wear Behavior of Hot Pressed Silicon Nitride in Cutting of Cast Iron", Ind. Ceramics Vol. 8, No. 4 pp. 192-197 (1988) Bhola et al., "ceramic Cutting tool Inserts", Key Engineering Materials, Vols. 122-124 (1996) pp. 235-246 **DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER** EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ATTY. DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO. **FORM PTO-1449** PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE 10/606482 K-1436P Cont. (Modified) APPLICANT INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Mehrotra et al. **FILING DATE GROUP** (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR 1.98(b)) 6/26/03 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** FILING DATE ISSUE **EXAMINER** IF APPROPRIATE INITIAL PATENT NUMBER DATE **PATENTEE CLASS SUBCLASS** 501 97 01/1986 Yeckley et al. 3 4 6 419 26 4 5 7 5 4 4 9 03/1986 Lueth 7 501 98 6 0 7 0 1 08/1986 Wolfe et al. 4 9 3 09/1986 Fukuhara et al. 510 97 4 6 0 6 3 3 2 9 0 12/1986 Lee et al. 501 97 4 6 1 51 295 0 6 9 3 02/1987 Bhat et al. 4 6 4 51 309 5 0 4 9 8 03/1987 Buijan 4 6 308 2 2 7 6 03/1987 51 4 6 5 Burden 97 05/1988 Steinmann et al. 501 4 7 4 3 5 7 1 428 216 Miyake et al. 4 7 4 5 0 2 2 05/1988 98 4 7 6 9 3 5 0 09/1988 Nishioka et al. 501 FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION TRANSLATION COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE YES NO DATE **CLASS SUBCLASS** DOCUMENT NUMBER Х 7 05/1984 0 1 0 Europe Х 0 5 6 3 09/1994 Europe 6 1 9 Х 9 7 5 5 08/1992 Europe 0 4 3 Х 0 4 9 9 8 6 1 08/1992 Europe Χ 08/1995 0 4 7 2 2 5 6 Europe 9 9 7 04/1994 5 8 9 Europe OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication) Nishioka et al. "Mechanical Properties of Si₃N₄ Ceramics with ZrO2-addition under high temperature and observation of the micro-structure (date unknown) Falk et al. "Microstructure and Short Term Oxidation of Hot-Pressed Si₃N₄/ZrO₂ (=Y₂O₃) Ceramics", J. Am. Ceram. Soc. 75 [1] (1992) pp.28-35 Knutson-Wedel, Si3N4 Ceramics Formed by HIP Using Additions of ZrC., Ceramics Today-Tomorrow's Ceramics, Materials Science Monographs, 66B, Elsevier Sci. Publishers B.V. (1991) DATE CONSIDERED **EXAMINER** EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ATTY. DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO. **FORM PTO-1449** PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE K-1436P Cont. 10/606482 (Modified) **APPLICANT** INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Mehrotra et al. **FILING DATE GROUP** (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR 1.98(b)) 6/26/03 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** FILING DATE ISSUE **EXAMINER** IF APPROPRIATE **PATENTEE** CLASS **SUBCLASS** INITIAL DATE PATENT NUMBER 51 309 07/1989 Ezis et al. 4 8 4 8 8 51 307 9 11/1989 Bhat et al. 5 4 8 8 1 0 428 698 9 2 01/1990 Sann et al. 4 8 9 2 7 264 65 08/1990 **Ezis** 4 9 4 6 6 3 0 5 9 3 3 1 09/1990 Mehrotra et al. 501 89 4 9 2 09/1990 Mehrotra et al. 501 89 9 5 9 3 3 4 501 89 7 3 5 10/1990 Mehrotra et al. 4 9 6 0 309 7 10/1990 Rhodes et al. 51 4 9 6 1 5 7 501 89 10/1990 Mehrotra et al. 4 9 6 5 2 3 1 427 249 3 9 3 04/1990 Mehrotra et al. 4 9 1 6 409 131 4 7 8 9 2 7 7 12/1988 Rhodes et al. FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION **TRANSLATION** PUBLICATION **COUNTRY OR** YES **SUBCLASS** NO DATE PATENT OFFICE **CLASS DOCUMENT NUMBER** OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication) **DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER** EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ATTY. DOCKET NO. SERIAL NO. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (Modified) K-1436P Cont. 10/606482 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE **APPLICANT** STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Mehrotra et al. (Use several sheets if necessary) FILING DATE **GROUP** (37 CFR 1.98(b)) 6/26/03 **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS EXAMINER** ISSUE FILING DATE INITIAL PATENT NUMBER DATE **PATENTEE CLASS** IF APPROPRIATE **SUBCLASS** 5 3 2 6 7 3 07/1994 3 Mizuno et al. 501 97 5 3 7 7 0 1 6 12/1994 Mehrotra et al. 51 293 2 5 3 8 2 01/1995 7 3 Mehrotra et al. 51 307 5 4 1 9 2 05/1995 Suzuki et al. 1 3 501 97 5 4 3 9 8 5 5 08/1995 Rosenthal 501 97 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 07/1995 Dasgupta et al. 501 97 5 5 2 5 1 3 4 06/1996 Mehrotra et al. 51 307 5 6 6 8 0 6 09/1997 9 Sato et al. 501 97.2 5 7 1 7 5 6 0 11/1996 Pujari et al. 501 97 5 7 5 4 8 9 1 06/1998 Pujari et al. 264 655 R 5 Ε 3 5 3 8 06/1997 Akesson et al. 501 87 FOREIGN PATENT OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATION COUNTRY OR TRANSLATION **DOCUMENT NUMBER** DATE **PATENT OFFICE CLASS** YES **SUBCLASS** NO OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication) **EXAMINER** DATE CONSIDERED EXAMINER: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Includ copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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